

EFFECT OF WEATHER ON CROPS, FEBRUARY, 1919.

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The weather during February was generally favorable for the growth of field and garden crops in most southern districts and for winter grains in the Central States. Growth was retarded in California, however, by cool weather, while low temperatures and heavy rains in the Southeast did some damage. Frequent rains delayed plowing and planting in many parts of the South, but the mild weather permitted much farm work in Central and Northern States. Corn planting was begun in Florida and southern Texas, and some cotton was planted in Florida and California.

Winter grains.—Moderate temperature and ample soil moisture were favorable for winter grains in most sections of the country, but there was some damage by freezing and thawing, with insufficient snow cover, in the Northeast and some blowing of the soil in the sandy districts of the Great Plains. The weather was favorable for winter oats, except for some damage by cold in Alabama and some complaint of rust in Texas.

The seeding of spring oats was hindered by wet soil in Oklahoma and some more eastern districts, but generally this work advanced during the month at about the normal rate.

Potatoes and truck crops.—Wet weather delayed the planting of potatoes and truck crops in parts of the South, but where soil conditions permitted this work progressed at about the average rate. Truck made favorable growth in Texas, but it was too cool in California and too cool and wet in the eastern Gulf region for best results.

Pastures, meadows and ranges.—Moderate temperature and sufficient moisture made conditions favorable for meadows, pastures, and ranges in most districts. The ranges were open and grazing was possible in many of the western grazing sections. The weather was generally favorable for stock, except for rather heavy losses in western Kansas, northwestern Oklahoma and in localities in eastern New Mexico.

Fruit.—The warm weather caused considerable swelling of fruit buds as far north as New Jersey and the Ohio Valley, while at the close of the month peaches, pears, and plums were blooming in the Gulf and South Atlantic coast districts, and almonds, apricots and plums in California. Very little winterkilling of fruit was reported.